



## NEWARK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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### NEWARK ISSUES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Newark Human Rights Commission today issued its six month affirmative action monitoring report for construction projects in the city. The report reflects the participation of minority business enterprises in construction projects and the employment of minority journeymen and apprentices during the period of January 2 through June 30, 1982.

Under Newark's affirmative action plan, at least 25 percent of the construction costs of a project must go to minority contractors, with allowances being made for those areas in which there are no minority contractors, such as with the manufacture of plate glass currently popular as a siding for office buildings such as the new Public Service building. Newark also requires that for every 5 journeymen used, two must be minority.

According to the monitoring report, these goals have been achieved. The utilization of minority craftsmen comes to 40 percent overall (60 percent apprentices, 29 percent journeymen), exceeding the goal for these categories. The contractors' participation for that period come to 20 percent overall, which, although it is 5 percent short of the 25 percent target, is acceptable considering the non-availability of qualified minority bidders in specific categories. An added factor, according to Shirley Rutherford, executive director of the Human Rights Commission, is the most of the monitored projects were incomplete as of June 30 and it was expected that they would increase their rates of minority participation as the projects continue.

During the monitoring period, of the 136,860 hours worked, minorities worked 40 percent or 82,462. During the same period \$1,783,260 in total wages were paid to construction workers, of which \$704,378 or 40 percent went to minorities. For journeymen, minorities earned 38 percent of the \$1,646,694 or \$623,167; minority

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apprentices earned 59 percent of the \$136,566 in wages or \$81,211.

Construction projects included in the study were One Washington Park, St. Mary's Villa, Gateway III, New Community, Essex Plaza II and the renovation of public buildings. Minority contractors were most successful in bidding for the renovation of public buildings, receiving 5b percent of the contract awards.

In the case of Gateway III the monitoring report covers the period up to October 30 because of the small amount of work that had been completed by June 30. As of October 30, 1/ percent of the construction costs had gone to minority contractors. Carl Brinson, affirmative action officer for the city credited a unique working relationship with the general contractors at the Gateway project for giving minority contractors a better chance at bidding for needed services.

Although the Pennsylvania Station project was not monitoring by the city's affirmative action office because it is monitored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Ms. Rutherford was able to report that eight minority business enterprises had been successfully referred to the project, representing a dollar value of \$1,027,000 in contracts.